

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 09/552,715

PATENT APPLICATION  
Atty Docket No. Q58947

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 22 were previously pending in the application. Claims 4 and 13 are herein cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1 - 3, 5 - 12, and 14 - 22 are presently pending.

No new matter is being entered by virtue of this Amendment. Further, because the amendments herein are simply re-arrangements of allowable subject matter from dependent to independent claims, no new searching and/or consideration will be required.

To expedite allowance of this application, independent claims 1 and 12 are herein amended to include subject matter noted by the Examiner as allowable in the Office Action dated July 14, 2004 (this subject matter being taken from claims 4 and 13, respectively, which are cancelled herein). Claims 1 and 12 are therefore asserted as patentable. Further, dependent claims 2 - 3, 5 - 11 and 14 - 22 are also asserted to be patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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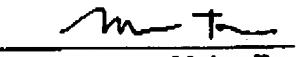
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Date: September 21, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 21st day of September, 2004.

  
Mariann Tam